



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO – Volcano

Fact Sheet #11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

January 30, 2002

The last Fact Sheet was dated January 28. New information is underlined.

Numbers Affected

Total Affected: 350,000 (U.N.)
Deaths: Approximately 147 (U.N. and USAID/OFDA field reports)
Displaced People: Approximately 30,000 (USAID/OFDA field reports)
Homes destroyed: 14,000 households (80,000 to 100,000 people) (USAID/OFDA field reports)

Current Situation

- Most aid agencies agree that approximately 14,000 households, between 80,000 and 100,000 people, lost their homes as a result of the volcano.
- USAID/OFDA field staff report that there are approximately 30,000 displaced people in the following areas: in Sake, DRC (5,000); in Rutshuru, DRC (5,000); in displacement camps near Gisenyi and Ruhengeri, Rwanda (5,000); in Bukavu, DRC (15,000). The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported on January 30 that an additional 2,000 people have recently arrived at Bukavu, bringing the total number of displaced people in the city to 17,000. Approximately 4,300 of these are living in displacement sites.
- A general distribution of non-food items has provided assistance to 52,730 families to date. The distribution is complete at nine of the eleven distribution sites, and the remaining sites are expected to complete the distributions this week. Subsequent distributions will target the families that lost homes as a result of the eruption. NGOs that are operating in the non-food sector have begun registering the estimated 14,000 directly affected families. These families will receive a “displacement pack” containing two water jugs, three blankets, one five-person cooking set, five kilograms of soap, and one plastic sheet for shelter.
- The World Food Program (WFP) completed its general distribution on January 28. A total of 1,204 metric tons (MT) of food was distributed to 55,000 families. Subsequent distributions will target directly affected households. In order to develop the registry of households targeted for food aid, WFP will compare the registry of households targeted for non-food aid with a complete census that local authorities plan to begin on January 31. WFP expects to have a targeted beneficiary list next week.
- Relief agencies and local authorities continue to debate options for providing directly affected families with new homes. Possible options include moving to sites near Goma, resettling in neighboring towns, or returning previously displaced people to their areas of origin. The Rassemblement Congolaise pour la Democratie (RCD), which controls the area, has banned any reconstruction on top of the recent lava flows and has announced that two sites outside of Goma would be available for resettlement on January 28. A survey of homeless Goma residents by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) revealed high amounts of resistance to settling in the outskirts of Goma or in other towns.
- In Sake, DRC, where targeted distributions have already begun, relief agencies have encountered threats from residents who protest the selective assistance. There are a variety of groups in need, including those who lost homes, those who hosted people who lost homes, those who were previously displaced by the DRC conflict, and the general population. Some relief agencies in Sake are asking that they either be permitted to distribute aid to all residents or that local police help to separate the intended beneficiaries from the rest of the population.
- Relief agencies estimate that water trucking will need to continue for two months until the water system is restored to its previous capacity. There are currently 30 water bladders positioned throughout the city, receiving a total of one million liters of water by truck from the city water network each day. There are also 24 chlorination stations along the waterfront to provide potable water. The water distribution system is estimated to be providing water to 50 percent of its previous service area.
- A measles vaccination campaign for all children under five will begin on February 7. There have been three unconfirmed cases of measles in Goma. There has been one confirmed case of cholera to date.
- The RCD has announced that no visas or tariffs will be required for humanitarian shipments crossing from Rwanda into DRC until February 28. Nevertheless, movement of relief supplies and personnel across the border continues to be delayed by visa and tariff requirements.
- Flights are arriving at Goma airport and regular service to cities in DRC is to resume this week. Local authorities have begun to clear lava from the Goma airport runway.

U.S. Government Response

- USAID/OFDA has made \$3 million available for relief assistance in response to the Goma volcano. Funds may be applied toward monetary grants to relief agencies, additional commodities shipments, or local purchase of relief items as needs require.
- USAID/OFDA is providing seismographic equipment to the Goma Volcanic Observatory that will allow seismologists in the area to better understand the continuing low-level earthquakes being experienced in the affected area. The equipment will arrive at Kigali, Rwanda on February 1.
- USAID/OFDA has provided two airlifts of relief commodities containing a total of 40,000 wool blankets, 35,200 water jugs, 20 10,000-liter water bladders, 300 rolls of plastic sheeting for shelter, and 5,000 dust masks.
- USAID Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has approved the loan of 1,714 metric tons (MT) of Title II emergency food aid, valued at \$1.1 million, from existing programs in the region.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved the loan of 3,450 MT of 416(b) emergency food commodities, valued at \$2.3 million, from existing programs in the region.
- The USAID assistance team consists of six people in Kigali, Goma and Bukavu, DRC, including a health specialist, a water/sanitation engineer, a food security specialist, and three field operations officers.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$50,000 to the U.S. Embassies in Kinshasa and Kigali for Goma relief assistance.

Relief Efforts

- Fifteen donors, not including the U.S. Government, have pledged over \$23 million of assistance for the Goma volcano disaster.
- Both the Government of DRC and the Government of Rwanda have been providing material assistance and coordination support for the relief effort.

Background

- Mt. Nyiragongo erupted at approximately 9:30 AM local time (2:30 AM EST) on January 17. The volcano produced three paths of lava, one of which headed toward the city of Goma, 18 kilometers to the south. A fourth fissure opened at 4:00 PM on January 17. The area had been experiencing tremors intermittently since March 2001. The most recent eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo was in 1977, when the lava flow covered 20 square kilometers, killed 2,000 people, and destroyed 400 houses and a 10-kilometre section of road.
- On January 18, U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda Margaret K. McMillion and U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Aubrey Hooks declared disasters for the eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo near Goma in the DRC.

U.S. Government Assistance Funding Summary

USAID/OFDA

- Monetary support to implementation partners providing assistance to volcano-affected populations in DRC and Rwanda.....\$50,000
- A January 21 airlift of USAID/OFDA relief commodities, including blankets, water jugs, water bladders, and dust masks. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation\$494,000
- A January 23 airlift of USAID/OFDA airlift departed the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Italy. The second airlift contains blankets, water jugs, and plastic sheeting. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation.\$339,337
- Seismographic equipment for the Goma Volcano Observatory, to arrive in Kigali on January 30. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation.\$39,750

USAID/FFP

- USAID/FFP has approved the loan of 1,714 MT of Title II emergency food aid from ongoing programs in the region. The cost includes the value of transportation and other associated expenses.....\$1,100,000

USDA

- USDA has approved the loan of 3,450 MT of 416(b) emergency food commodities from ongoing programs in the region. The cost includes the value of transportation and other associated expenses.....\$2,255,000

USAID/OFDA	\$923,087
USAID/FFP	\$1,100,000
USDA	\$2,255,000
Total USG Assistance	\$4,278,087

USAID/OFDA fact sheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html